National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Moulds and asthma: Time for indoor climate change?

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Abstract:

The spectre of indoor moulds as a contributor to respiratory disease keeps raising its fruiting body and just won't go away. Numerous studies support a circumstantial and temporal link between high mould exposure and worse symptoms in susceptible individuals. However, it seems that the majority of respiratory physicians (at least in Europe) are at best non-believers. They are reluctant to consider moulds as important in patients with respiratory symptoms, rarely make specific enquiry, and almost never make attempts to reduce mould exposure. This contrasts with enthusiasm bordering on evangelism from some experts in the USA where huge litigation raises the stakes, with over 10 000 cases pending and multi-million settlements already routine.1 In the past we have been hindered by profound ignorance of the biology of these important environmental contaminants. What do we know about indoor moulds, and how are they implicated in respiratory diseases, and specifically asthma? Should we be trying to reduce mould exposure for specific patients or the whole population and, if so, how?

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/thx.2007.079699

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Indoor Environment

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Effect: Asthma

Medical Community Engagement: ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Resource Type: ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale: ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified